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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/749,729	12/30/2003	Jeffrey A. Humber	1896-059	9048

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EXAMINER

PHILLIPS, CHARLES E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3751

DATE MAILED: 03/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

8W

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/749,729	Applicant(s) HUMBER, JEFFREY A.	
	Examiner Charles E. Phillips	Art Unit 3751	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/30/03</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Piskula.

The knockout is seen at 29 and the retainer is the wall portion 13a discussed in col. 3, lines 42-col. 4, lines 4. Re: claim 2, see col. 1, paragraph 4. Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 are fully met here. Re: claim 8, see the taper below the element 30.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Piskula, as applied supra, in view of Fell, Sr.


Fell teaches the recessed aspect of claim 9, in Fig. 3. To provide the former with this feature or to provide Fell, Sr. with the tapered inlet to prevent insertion of the knockout into the drainpipe would have been obvious to the ordinary artisan as interchanging perfecting features of like devices for their demonstrated properties would have been prima facie obvious to the ordinary artisan.

Claims 5, 10, 14, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Piskula.

The provision of a raised ring would have constituted an obvious expedient of choice in design as failing to unobviously define over the raised member 29a of Piskula. With the teaching of 29a at hand it would have been an obvious expedient to the ordinary artisan to provide for any shape desired for manual removal of the frangible element. No unexpected results are evident from the annular lip and application points to none.

Re: claims 10 and 19, to provide reinforcement in the form of ribs in plastic elements in well known in the plastic art, of which official notice is taken. To employ same here wherever needed or desired would have been an obvious expedient to the ordinarily skilled artisan.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Charles Phillips at telephone number (571) 272-4893.

  
Charles E. Phillips  
Primary Examiner